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Man Sentenced to Prison for 1990 Murder in Cerritos

A 64-year-old man was sentenced today to life in state prison without the possibility of parole for stabbing his estranged wife and killing her employer nearly 30 years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Oct. 20, a jury found Santos Lopez Corado guilty of first-degree murder and attempted murder in case VA007031.

Jurors also found true a special circumstance allegation that the killing was committed in the commission of an attempted kidnapping. Moreover, jurors found true a special allegation that the defendant personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife, during the crime.

Deputy District Attorney Amanda Luna of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said Corado had an extensive history of domestic violence against his wife. At the time of the crime, Corado's wife had left him and was working as a childcare worker in a Cerritos home, the prosecutor said.

On Dec. 8, 1990, Corado traveled to his estranged wife's place of employment, forced himself into the home and fatally attacked the homeowner, Kianfar Barkhordar, according to the prosecutor. During the assault, Corado also stabbed and seriously injured his wife before fleeing the scene, the prosecutor added.

Authorities investigated the incident and on Feb. 21, 1991, a warrant was issued for Corado's arrest, however, his whereabouts remained unknown.

On Oct. 9, 2015, law enforcement located Corado in Guatemala and the defendant was extradited to California to face criminal prosecution for the 1990 attack.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.